



RIVIERA SUPPER CLUB
Nicolet Road
Green Bay, Wis.



—Press-Gazette Photo by Emery Kroening

Flames Destroy Old Riviera Supper Club as Firemen Practice

Building, now owned by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, was razed to make room for further construction

Supper Club Destroyed

Old 'Riviera' Is No More'

A bayshore landmark became a firefighter's classroom Friday morning, its usefulness and early elegance destroyed in flames.

A recent attraction for vandals, the former Riviera Supper Club at 2535 Nicolet Road, owned by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, was burned by the Green Bay Fire Department in a training exercise.

At one time the large stucco house was a plush summer home belonging to Dr. John Minahan of the celebrated family of Green Bay doctors, attorneys and newspapermen.

In 1935, Joseph Selissen bought the structure for a reported \$52,000 and turned it into a supper club.

In 1966, Selissen sold the building and five acres for \$75,000 to Brown County, which in turn gave the parcel to the

University of Wisconsin as part of the Shorewood Campus.

The following year, the UW-GB received an allocation of \$26,000 from the State Building Commission to remodel the structure for the offices of Chancellor Edward W. Weidner and his staff.

After expending some of those funds for a remodeling survey and plan, the university learned it would cost more than \$40,000 to remodel the structure, and that part of it would still be considered unsafe. Problems with the structure included an inadequate heating system, uneven floors, leaking roof and floor joists that had been cut away.

The State Building Commission in December, 1967, approved the use of the remaining remodeling funds for the purchase of the former Villa Coeli, a retreat for nuns at St. Mary's

Hospital and four and a half acres of land to replace the Riviera as office space. The Riviera then was to be used for studio space for advanced art students and faculty.

As the building stood vacant, vandals found it attractive and a student was contracted to live in the building. Last summer some art classes were conducted in the building, although it was not considered safe. Other facilities, including relocatable classrooms at the UW-GB Deckner campus had been removed and the university had no other space for the classes.

Last fall the art classes moved to a warehouse on Morrow Street, and the Riviera was left alone to decay further.

Long-range plans for the UW-GB campus indicated the Riviera land and other bayshore property will be developed with instructional buildings.